

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 SS-15 CPR-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210948

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, EI, US, PORG, UNGA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR IRISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
TO MEET THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY

1. IRISH AMBASSADOR MOLLOY CALLED ON CHIEF OF PROTOCOL DOBELLE AUGUST 18 TO REQUEST THAT IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHAEL O'KENNEDY BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHINGTON AND ALSO CALL ON SECRETARY VANCE IN NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON DURING PERIOD SEPTEMBER 27 TO OCTOBER 2 INCLUSIVE. AMBASSADOR SAID HE REALIZED IT WOULD BE A BUSY PERIOD FOR THE PRESIDENT IN VIEW OF THE CAMP DAVID MEETING AND OTHER EVENTS.

2. DOBELLE RESPONDED THAT IN GENERAL THE PRESIDENT IS NOT RECEIVING DURING THIS PERIOD SO WE CANNOT BE OPTIMISTIC, BUT WE WILL SUBMIT THE REQUEST. THE SECRETARY
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WILL BE IN NEW YORK FOR MOST OF THAT PERIOD AND WE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE MINISTER. DOBELLE ASKED WHETHER MRS. O'KENNEDY WILL ACCOMPANY THE MINISTER, SINCE MRS. VANCE IS ARRANGING A SCHEDULE FOR WIVES. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD CHECK ON THIS AND INFORM THE DEPARTMENT.

3. AMBASSADOR MOLLOY NOTED THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF SEAN DONLON TO REPLACE HIM HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED IN DUBLIN THE PREVIOUS DAY, AND THAT DONLON WOULD BE ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON ABOUT SEPTEMBER 5 OR 6. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED THAT MR. DONLON'S CREDENTIALS BE PRESENTED AT THE WHITE HOUSE PRIOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT. DOBELLE REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD BE A BUSY TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT BUT THAT WE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUEST.

4. IN FOLLOW-UP PRESENTATION TO DEPTOFF IRISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR LILLIS SAID THE MAIN REASON FOR REQUESTING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS PRESS REPORTS RESULTING FROM PRIME MINISTER LYNCH'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES LAST MAY WHEN A REQUEST FOR THE PM TO MEET PRESIDENT CARTER WAS MADE AND THEN WITHDRAWN. THESE DEVELOPMENTS BECAME PUBLIC AND PRESS REPORTS ALLEGED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER REFUSED TO SEE THE PM BECAUSE OF BRITISH PRESSURE OR BECAUSE OF POLICY DIFFERENCES RELATED TO NORTHERN IRELAND. THE GOI APPRECIATES THE WHITE HOUSE DENIAL OF THESE ALLEGATIONS BUT FEELS A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IS DESIRABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THE COMMON POLICY OF THE TWO COUNTRIES ON SUCH CENTRAL NORTHERN IRELAND ISSUES AS OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE AND DESIRE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. THESE VIEWS ARE ALSO SHARED BY THE BRITISH. LILLIS CONCLUDED BY STATING IF THE CAMP DAVID MEETING

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AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS PREVENT A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, THEN IT IS IMPORTANT THE COMMON VIEWS BE DEMONSTRATED BY A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. VANCE

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